

Only Fools And Fools

A Classical Collection Of Narratives About Fools

Maulana Ahmad Ali

All praise is due to Allah,
 The Most Beneficent and this
 Most Merciful and may Allah accept our
 humble effort. The work or any other work
 of Al Ma'hadul Islami is the result of the effort
 of many Muslims. I would like to thank all those
 who helped to make this work possible especially
 those that are directly involved at the Institute,
 not forgetting my teachers and my Shaykh
 Hadrat Maulana Yusaf Sahib for their
 guidance, help and Dua's.

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Introduction

All praise is for Allah, Lord of the Worlds; and may blessings and peace be upon the master and the seal of the prophets, Muhammad (SAW), who was sent to all mankind, and upon his pious family and the righteous companions.

This book "Only Fools and Fools" is a very brief summary of the work "Akhbarul Hamqa Wal Mogafaleen" written by Ibn-ul-Jawzi Hafiz Jamal ud-Din Abdul-Rahman. Born in 510 AH in Baghdad, his father passed away whilst he was only three years of age. This did not stop him from becoming one of the greatest masters of all time. His brilliance began to show at a very early age, when he memorized the Qur'an. He has benefited from, and studied under, great masters like Qadi Abu-Bakr al-Ansari; Abul Qasim al Hareere; Abu Ghalib al Mawardi; Abu sad al Bagdadee; and many others.

Acknowledged and praised by masters he was a great scholar who spent his life serving the Deen. One hundred thousand people would attend his lectures and a hundred thousand embraced Islam, by the Will of Allah, at his hands. This alone bears witness to his greatness as a scholar.

He was a man of many works and there was no subject he had not written on. Ibn Taymiyah says I counted his works, which surpassed a thousand. The following are just some of his famous

works: Taiseerul Bayan; Minhaaj al Wusool; Jami ul masaneed and al Insaaf. He died on the 12th of Ramadhan 597.

One of the reasons why Ibn Jawzi compiled this work was so that an intellectual could read these stories and realise from them the value of intellect, appreciate, and thank Allah for this great blessing.

Mohammed bin Muslim relates that a man while participating in the gathering of Ibn Abas made many mistakes. Ibn Abas looked at his slave and freed him. The man surprised, asked Ibn Abas as to why he freed his slave. He replied "Thanking Allah He has not made me like you."

I, having read this book, thought the best way of thanking Allah is by translating into English this great work, so all the English speaking can also benefit from this and in turn thank Allah for this great blessing of intellect.

My original intention was of translating the whole work. However, the original work consists of many chapters and stories, the general public may find difficult understand. Thus I decided to choose certain stories putting them into my own words, so that it may be easier to understand.

I pray to Allah that He accepts this effort of mine and I pray He makes this and any other work which we have produced a source of guidance for mankind and a ticket to Paradise for all those that have helped in making it possible.

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Famous Fools

Yazid bin Thar Waan was a fool of his time. He feared that he may lose himself and would therefore wear a necklace made of bones around his neck so he could recognise himself. One night, somehow, this necklace of his miraculously ended up around the neck of his brother. When he noticed the necklace around his brother's neck he said, "If you are me, then who am I?"

In another instance he lost his camel and announced whoever finds it, will receive ten camels as a reward. Somebody pointed out to him that this is a foolish proposition. He replied "No! you get a buzz when you find something."

Once Ajmal bin Lajim was asked about the name of his horse. He got up, struck the horse in the eye, and replied "He's called squint."

Mohammed bin Ala relates that once Hamza bin Beed asked his slave, "when did we read Jumma in Rasafah?" He thought for a while and then replied "Tuesday".

Two camels passed by Abu Aseed whilst he was in the company of a few people. The people asked him which was the quicker of the two and he replied "One of them is very quick". "Which one?" they asked. He replied "The one which is in front of me, is quicker than the one which is ahead of it".

A man came to Abu Aseed and began to console him on a calamity that he was afflicted with. Abu Aseed in return replied, "I pray that Allah (swt) let's me repay you in the same way" (meaning I hope you are also afflicted with some difficulty one day so I can come and pay off your consoling).

Abu Hasan relates that a man said to Hija "I heard a loud noise coming from your house."

He replied "It was the sound of my falling shirt". The man exclaimed "The sound of your falling shirt was so loud?" He replied "When I was inside the shirt (i.e. wearing the shirt) would I not have fallen with it?"

On the death of Hija's neighbour, a gravedigger was called and ordered to dig a grave. After he prepared the grave there was a dispute with regard to his pay. To solve the problem Hija went to town and purchased a cross for two Dhirums. "What's this?" the people asked. Hija replied "The gravedigger would not settle for anything less than five Dhirams. So I have purchased this cross so we can hang the dead man on it. That way we have saved three Dhirums, and the dead man has escaped the punishment in the grave and avoided the questions posed by the angels Munkar and Nakeer."

At another level Hija purchased a sack of flour and hired a labourer to carry it. Astonishingly, the labourer ran off with the whole sack. On seeing the labourer after a few days, Hija hid

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from him. "Why are you hiding from him?" the people asked. He replied "I fear that he may ask for his wage".

On another occasion, Hija buried some money in the jungle and took a cloud as a sign to remember the secret place.

When Hija's father died, he was told to go purchase a Kaffan (shroud). He replied "If I go to purchase the kaffan, I fear I may miss the jannazah".

Another time Hija was seen running in the market place. "What's the matter?" the people asked. He replied "Have you seen a girl with a colorful beard pass by?"

Once he came to the door of the Jami Masjid. He asked "What's this?" "Masjid Jami (central mosque)" the people replied. He was so impressed and prayed "Allah have mercy on Jami. What a beautiful mosque he has made." (He misinterpreted Jami as a person's name rather than the name given to a central mosque).

One day he passed by a group of people whilst he had some peaches hidden up his sleeves. He then said, "Whoever tells me what is hidden up my sleeve, will receive the biggest peach." The people answered, "You have peaches hidden up your sleeves." He was surprised as to how they knew the answer and bitterly remarked, "Whoever told you this secret, is a son of a whore".

On one occasion he heard somebody applaud "What a beautiful moon". He replied "Yes, by Allah - especially at night."

A man asked Hija "Can you add on your fingers?" He replied in the affirmative. The man asked to him to calculate the following, "You have two kilos of wheat". Hija responded by closing his small finger and the finger next to it. The man then said, "You have two kilos of barley". So Hija closed his thumb and the one finger next to it. The curious man asked, "Why have you kept your middle finger standing?" Hija replied "So that the barley doesn't mix with the wheat".

Hija once passed by a few children who were playing with a dead eagle. He offered to purchase the dead eagle for one Dhirham. When he took it home, his mother confronted him and asked "What are we going to do with a dead eagle?" He replied "Mum, be quite. If it was alive I wouldn't have purchased it for a 100 Dirhams."

A final example of Hija's sequence of foolish actions is the time his father made intensions for Hajj. As his father was about to depart, Hija, who was feeling very sentimental, said "Father do not spend long and try to return on big Eid, so you can make Qurbani with us".

Once a Governor became very angry with Mazeed and ordered a barber to shave off his beard. The barber ordered Mazeed, "Spread your cheeks, so I may cut it with ease". Mazeed

responded "The Governor has ordered you to shave off my beard and not to teach me how to play the flute"

He once asked somebody "Would you jump off the roof of your house if somebody offered you a thousand Dhirhams?" "No" replied the man. Mazeed argued if somebody offered me a thousand Dhirhams, I would jump from the Surriya (a name of a star). "You fool, you will die" the man responded. Mazeed further argued "How do you know? I may land on a haystack, or perhaps on Zubaida's bed".

Abu Zaid relates that Mazeed was informed about the death of a particularly well-known gravedigger. Mazeed commented, "The one who digs a hole for somebody else, will eventually fall in it himself".

He was asked "Would you like to have the Jubba?" He replied "Yes and twenty stripes of the whip!". "Why are you saying this?" asked the people. "Every thing has some price!" He replied.

The Governor Amr bin Laith received a royal guest. The dinner was laid and Azharul Himaar was instructed to remain silent whilst the guest was entertained. He did as he was told for a long period of time, but eventually lost his patience and spoke out "I have made a minaret in the village which is a thousand spans high". As he spoke a guard began to make gestures with his eyes signaling him to shut up. "What is the width of the minaret?" the guest asked. He replied "One span". "The width

is too little for this height" the doubtful guest replied. Azharul Himaar answered, "I had made intensions of increasing it but this guard of yours, stopped me"

Another messenger from the King arrived and yet again he was told to remain silent. He did as he was told, however, when the guest sneezed he decided to speak out, and instead of saying "Yarhamukallah" (Allah have mercy on you) he said "Sabbahakallah" (Allah light up your face). The angry Governor bitterly questioned, "Didn't I tell you to remain quiet?" He replied "I only spoke so that this messenger does not return to Baghdad and inform them that these people do not know Arabic".

Ali Bin Muaaz relates that I wrote a letter to Abu Mohammed. He replied to this address "This letter is to the one who wrote to me".

Once some people came to him regarding a wall and asked him, "For how long have you known this wall?" He replied, "I have known it since it was this small and belonged to so and so".

As his son was going to Hajj, he expressed his emotions to him by saying "Son, you know that I can't live without you. Try to come back as soon as possible and make sure you do Qurbani with us. You know your mother does not eat anything till you return from the Eid prayer."

Once his slave presented a chicken to him. He remarked "Look how much it resembles its mother". Then he asked its mother, "Is this chicken a male or female?"

Mohammad bin Ahmed relates, I went to offer my condolence to Zujaj on the death of his mother. Many great people were also present, when all of a sudden ibn al Jasas entered laughing and shouted, "I am very happy". Everybody was shocked and asked him, "What makes you happy when we are all saddened by this death?" He replied, "I was first informed that Zujaj had died. Afterwards I was informed that it was his mother who had died and not him. I am happy on the account Zujaj is alive". On hearing this everybody was amused and started laughing.

Whilst strolling in his garden he felt a bitter taste in his mouth. He asked the gardener for onions with vinegar to get rid of the bad taste. The gardener did not have onions and vinegar so he said to him why did you not grow the onions with the vinegar.

A gross, but nonetheless remarkable final example of this man's foolishness is explained by himself. He states "Once I went to toilet at night when all of a sudden the light went off. I began to lick the ground to find where the toilet was. After some licking, I finally found it."

Governors.

Madainee explains, a very respectable man came to Baghdad and wanted to send a letter with somebody to his father informing him of his well-being. He could not find anybody to take the letter so he returned home himself and said to his father "It was not acceptable that you receive the news of my arrival in Baghdad and my well being late, and I could not find anybody to send this letter with, so I have brought it myself." Having said this, he handed the letter to his father.

When the horse of the Vaseer Mohammad bin Jaffar would not listen he would stop feeding it as form of punishment. When the servant would seek permission to feed it, he would say, "Feed it, but make sure that you don't tell it that I know".

Once a Governor passed by an ice seller and requested to taste a piece of the ice. He broke a piece from the block and gave it to him. After tasting it the Governor said, "I want it colder than this". The ice seller, then broke off a piece of the other side and gave it to him. He tasted it and then enquired about the price. The ice seller replied, "The first piece is 1 Dirham per Rattal and the second is 1.5 Dirham per Rattal".

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Stories Of Jurists

Abul Khair relates from a friend that he went to a place called Tahart. A criminal was brought to the court of the Kazeer of Tahart who had committed such a crime regarding which there was no mention in the Qur'an and Sunnah. He gathered the Jurists and asked them regarding the punishment. They wanted no involvement and replied "The problem is in your hands, do as you please". He managed to solve the problem by randomly opening and closing the Qur'an 3 times. The last time he opened the Qur'an his eyes fell on the verse "We shall brand him on the nose" (surah Qalam verse 16). Having taken this as reasonable punishment, he cut off the criminal's nose.

Abdur Rahman bin Missar relates that Qazee Abu Yusuf (student of Imam Abu Hanifa and Chief Justice of his time) appointed me as a Judge of a place called Jeel. I was informed that the King Haroon Rashid is going to pass by. On hearing this news I called the people of Jeel and told them to praise and make a good mention of me in front of the King. They promised and disappeared. On suspecting their promise, I lost hope in them. In order to impress the King I combed my beard and personally went out of town and met the King and Abu Yusuf near a place called Haraqa. I began to praise the Qazee of Jeel immensely. Then all of a sudden Abu Yusuf recognized me and outburst in laughter. The King questioned him regarding his laughter. Abu

Yusuf answered "This Qazee is praising himself". The King also started laughing and then ordered Qazee Abu Yusuf to sack him.

Stories Of Muazzins

A man relates that I saw a muazzin who immediately ran away after performing the azaan. Out of curiosity, I asked him "Where are you going?" He replied, "I want to find out how far the sound of my azaan reaches."

Muhammad bin Khalaf relates that a group of people complained to a Muazzin as they could not hear his voice, and simply instructed him to amplify it somewhat louder. He replied, "I don't hear my voice from a mile".

Shuraih bin Yazid relates that Saeed bin Sinan was a pious old man and the muazzin of the Central Mosque of Hims. When he woke the people for sehri during Ramadan he would announce, "O People prepare your pots and quickly eat your food before I give azaan and Allah turns your faces black and you burn".

Imams

Abu Ainaah relates that Madni was standing directly behind the Imam. The Imam for one reason or another broke his prayer and put Madni forward to lead the prayer. He remained standing there for long a while. The people exclaimed from behind, "Subhaan-allah" (word used to signal the Imam when he makes a

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mistake). Even then he did not move. Thus, someone went forward, moved Madni and replaced him with a more appropriate Imam. After the prayer, the people began to curse and reproach Madni. Explaining himself he said "I thought he told me to look after his place until he gets back".

Muhammad bin Khalf relates that a man passed by an Imam who was reading Alif Allam Meem (translated: the Turks have been defeated). When he completed the prayer, I approached the Imam and told him "Oh Imam! The words in the Qur'an are Alif Laam Meem (translated: the Romans have been defeated) (*surah Room verse 1*). He replied "They are all my enemies and I am not bothered who I make a mention of".

Abu Anbas relates that a long bearded fool was a neighbour of mine. He lived in the local Masjid and looked after it. He also gave the azaan and led the prayer. He had memorized the big surahs and would recite them in the salaah. His habit of long surah recitation was unwelcome by the locals and met with great hostility. One day having recited a long surah during the prayer, the people, fed up, told him to leave, suggesting that he doesn't show any consideration for the weak behind him. He promised that he would not recite a long surah again and asked for the forgiveness of the people. The next day after reciting surah Fatiah he remained silent for a period of time, and then shouted "What do you say about surah Abass". Nobody answered except a long bearded old man who was less intelligent than him. He answered this seems OK, read it.

An Imam, after finishing reciting surah Fatiah began reciting surah Yusaf. The people broke their prayer and began to return to their homes. When the Imam realised the people are leaving, he asserted Subhaan-Allah, and then at the top of his voice read "Qul hu walla hu a had", the people then returned and rejoined the prayer.

An Imam recited surah Taqweer in Fajar salaah. When he reached the verse which translates, *Where are you going?* He surprisingly forgot the verses that follow on from this and therefore endlessly repeated the same words until the sunrise was imminent. Behind him was a frustrated man with leather socks in his hands. This man clobbered the Imam with the socks and said, "I am going and I don't know where they are going".

Village Of Fools

Asmaee recalls, I happened to pass by a Bedouin who was reciting surah Shams in salaah incorrectly. I informed him of his mistake so he in turn asked me to teach him something. I taught him surah Fatiah and surah Ikhlaas. After a few days I passed by him again. This time he was only reciting surah Fatiah. What happened to the other surah? I asked. He replied, "I have given it as hadya to my uncle's son, and a noble man does not ask for his gift back.

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Asmaee relates a Bedouin went for Hajj and entered Mecca before the people. Holding on to the cloth of the Kaba he said "Oh Allah! Quickly forgive me before there is a rush".

Asmaee relates, some people from the Quraish went to see plots of their land. Amongst the Quraish, there was also the presence of a man (was this man a Bedouin?) from the Banu Gheefa. The weather suddenly changed and there was a severe sand storm to the extent that they all feared for their lives. Allah, through His mercy saved them. Through the sheer relief of survival and as mark of appreciation, each one of them freed a slave. The accompanying Bedouin had no slave. So in order to make a similar gratefulness gesture he said "Oh Allah! To please you I am freeing my wife by giving her three talaq".

A Bedouin was once attacked and wounded by a fox. In order to nurse his wounds he came to a person who does daam (a special healing process). The healer asked, which animal bit you? He was ashamed to explain that it was a cowardly fox, so he replied "It was a dog". When the man began to prepare the daam, the Bedouin interrupted and suggested to the healer to include a mixture in the daam that would also cure fox bite.

A Bedouin said to a man we have such dates that if you put them in your mouth you can taste the sweetness in the ankles.

An Imam was reciting surah Nuh in salaah. He recited the verse that translates, *We have sent Nuh to his people*. He forgot what came next, so he kept reciting the same words. A frustrated

Bedouin from behind exclaimed, "If Nuh is not going then send someone else. Why have you put us in difficulty?"

A Bedouin in his prayer was saying "Oh Allah forgive only me". Someone asked, why don't you pray "Oh Allah forgive us all?" He replied "I do not want to burden my Lord too much".

Once a fool's donkey was sick and he vowed that if it gets better he would fast for ten days. The donkey became well so he fasted for 10 days as he promised. The day he completed the 10th fast the donkey died. This did indeed anger the fool and led him to say the following, "Oh Allah you have played a joke with me, wait until Ramadan arrives and I'll show you".

A Bedouin called Mujrim (criminal/sinner) came and stood in the first saaf behind the imam who was reciting surah Mursalaat in salaah. When the Imam recited the verse *Did we not destroy the first* the Bedouin went into the last saaf. The Imam then recited *then we shall destroy the later ones*. The Bedouin then moved on and joined the middle saaf. Finally, the Imam recited *This is how We deal with the mujrim (sinners/criminals)*. The Bedouin left the salaah thinking the Imam was after him.

A Bedouin once joined the Imam for Fajr salaah. He had an appointment after the prayer but the Imam decided to recite surah Baqarah. As a result of the length of this surah, the Bedouin was delayed and missed his appointment. The next day he arrived early and joined the Imam again, who this time began to recite surah Feel (the elephant). Completely angry, the

Bedouin broke his prayer and left the mosque, shouting "Yesterday you read The Cow and finished the Cow and today you are reciting the elephant, you will probably finish at midnight".

A Bedouin began to perform his prayers so that the people would recognize his devotion and praise him for his actions. On one occasion, whilst in salaah, he broke his prayer and boasted "I am also fasting today."

A few people were once discussing the night prayer (Tahajud). Amongst these people was present a Bedouin. They asked him do you get up at night (meaning do you read Tahajud). He replied in the affirmative. They asked "What do you do?" He replied "I get up urinate, and go back to sleep."

Abu Umar Zaid relates a Bedouin prayed "Oh Allah! Give me a death like my father". He was asked as to how his father died. He replied "He ate fruit, drank wine, laid under the sun and passed away." He died with a stomach full, fresh and in the luxury of the beautiful hot weather.

Fools Trying To Be Clever.

Mohammad bin Qasim relates that a fool came to Basrah to visit a man who was at the point of death. Instead of telling him to recite the Kalima in an ordinary manner, he strangely said "You can read it with a zabar, zayr, and paysh. Both ways are correct according to Imaam Seeba Wai". Mohammad bin Qasim explaining this lucrative act, asked "Have you ever seen a fool teaching a man who is on the point of his death, different opinions of the Imams of the nahw? (nahw is a science that deals with what the last letter of an Arabic word should have on it e.g. zabr zayr paysh or jazm)."

Foolish Story Tellers

Seefawee was in the graveyard on his donkey. There was another donkey near a grave when all of a sudden it reacted wildly. Having seen this, he remarked, "It is probable that the man in the grave was a donkey doctor".

Ibn Khalf relates that there was a storyteller in Medina that when Abu Huraira saw his daughter wearing a ring of gold told her to take it off informing her that it was fire. Explaining this he took out his hand and we realized that he has a gold ring in his finger. The people asked, "You are stopping us yet you are wearing it yourself?" He replied "I am not the daughter of Abu Hurairah"

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Abdur Rahmaan bin Hanafee relates that the storyteller Abu Ka'b related that the name of the wolf, which ate Nabee Yusaf, was so and so. The people, astonished by such a statement argued that the wolf didn't eat him. He replied "Then it must be the name of the wolf that didn't eat him".

Ala bin Salih explains that Abdul A'lah bin Umar was a storyteller. He related a story, as was his habit. Just as his gathering was about to end, people accused him of not knowing the Qur'an. "Alhamdu-lillah, I know the Qur'an well," he answered the critics. To prove this he recited Bismillah and then proceeded with surah Ikhlāas. After reciting the first verse he halted and said "Whoever wishes to hear the next portion should come to my next gathering."

A storyteller informed the people, "Oh people, the Satan doesn't eat the food and drink on which you have recited the name of Allah. So when you eat do not recite Bismillah, that way the Satan will eat with you. Instead you should recite Bismillah when you drink water." He assumed the failure of the Satan to share water with the person who recites Bismillah will cause the Satan to die of thirst.

Once someone stole the door of Abu Salim's house. He in turn stole the door of the Masjid. "What are you doing?" the people asked. He replied "The owner of this door knows who stole my door."

Stories Of Fools Who Presented Themselves As Zahids

Mohammed al Makharmee relates "We were in a gathering when all of a sudden there was a very bad smell in the air. I looked around and found that a man had covered his moustache with filth. When we asked why he did this, he replied, I want to be humble."

Tahir bin Hussain asked Marwazee how long have you been in Iraq? He replied 20 years, and I've been fasting for thirty. Tahir remarked, "I asked one question and you gave two answers".

Abu Uthmaan relates that Yahya bin Jafar told me that "I had a Persian neighbour who would cry all night and he had such a long beard, the likes of which I have never envisaged. One night I was awakened by his crying. He was crying bitterly beating his chest and head and endlessly repeated a particular verse of the Qur'an. When I saw his situation I thought I must go and listen to the verse which has ruined him and awoke me. I eavesdropped and found that he was reciting *and they ask you regarding menses. Say it is HARM and they should stay away from women (referring to sexual relations) during menses* (Bakarah verse 232). I understood that a long beard does not tell lies.

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The student of Abul Attahiya was an Asetic and a Sufee. He lost one eye and remarked to look at the dunya with two eyes is israaf.

There was a Sufee, to whom people would visit for blessings. The Qazee was in one of his gatherings when the mention of Prophet Lut was made. The Sufi insulted The Prophet Lut. The people argued he's a Prophet and condemned his insults. He repented and explained that he was not aware of this. Then the mention of Pharaoh was made. "What are your opinions on him?" the people asked. "I have just repented and I do not speak with reference to the Prophets" he replied.

Foolish Teachers

Mohammed bin Khalf relates that he passed by a door of a Governor in which he saw that a teacher had positioned himself behind a curtain and was barking like a dog. Meanwhile, a boy came from behind a curtain and the teacher firmly grabbed him. I asked what he was doing. He replied "This child does not like to read and when he goes home he never returns. The reason for his absence and truancy is that he has a dog with which he spends a vast majority of his time. I was impersonating his dog so that when he mistaken me for his dog and approaches, I can then take hold of him".

Jahiz relates that I asked a Qari, "How come you have no stick." He replied, "I'm not in need of it". I say to my students,

whoever does not read loud, his mother is a bad woman, so the students themselves read loudly. This method is more productive than the threatening stick".

Jahiz relates, that I once asked the teacher "Why do you hit the kids without reason?" He replied, "I hit them for a very good reason and that is they pray that I go for Hajj. When I go for Hajj they will leave and go to another Mosque. Do you think I'm a fool who would go to Hajj and lose my students?"

A teacher without reason hit his student. He was questioned as to why he had done this. He replied, "I hit him in advance before he made a mistake, so that way he does not make a mistake."

Jahiz writes that a woman told a teacher of her disobedient son and demanded that her son was disciplined by lessons of fear. The teacher had a very long beard. He placed it in his mouth, shook his head and began to scream loudly. This extremely scared the mother. Frightened she remarked, "I told you to scare the child not me". He replied, "You fool, when the punishment of Allah comes, then the good and bad are all destroyed".

Jahiz relates, that I once passed by a teacher who was sitting all alone. I asked "Where are all your students?" He replied "They have gone to fight one another". This is extremely unusual and something that I wished to witness so I asked if I could go to see them. He replied "Make sure you cover your head because if they think you are me, they will give you a good beating".

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There was a Bedouin who lived near a river. One night he had a bad dream on a cold night. He was not prepared to have a bath with cold water, so he searched for his bucket in order to warm the water. He failed to find it, so he took off his clothes and swam to the other side of the cold river to fetch a bucket. He returned with a bucket, again via the cold river and then warmed the water and had a bath.

A narrator relates, I happen to pass by a teacher who was being beaten and his beard pulled by his students. I wanted to help him but he refused and ordered me to allow the students to do as they please. He said "I had challenged them if I come first to the Mosque, then I will beat them, and if they come first they will beat me. Unfortunately, today I overslept and was late. Tomorrow, I will come here from midnight and watch how I treat them". One of the students responded, "I'm going to stay here tonight and watch the way I beat you when you come at midnight".

More Foolish Stories.

A man went to buy a donkey from the market. He met his friend on the way who asked, "Where are you going?" He replied "To purchase a donkey". His friend told him to say Inshallah. His friend replied "This is not the place to say Inshallah, my money is in my pocket and the donkey is available at the market." When he reached the market, a thief took off with his money and thus he returned with a miserable look on his face. His friend asked "What's the matter?" He replied "My money has been stolen Inshallah." His friend remarked, "This is not the place to say Inshallah."

Ibn Josey relates, that my friend informed me that a man married a woman who was very short in size. The people questioned, "What have you done?" So he replied "A women is evil, the less the evil, the better."

Mohammed Dhari relates, there was a man from Dhar, who was a well renounced fool. He once left Dara with ten donkeys. He began to count the donkeys whilst he was riding one. He counted nine, forgetting to include the one he was riding on. He became anxious, got off his donkey and after recounting them, found them to be ten. Relieved, he climbed on a donkey and recounted and found them to be nine. He got off and rechecked and found them to be ten. This happened a few times so he finally decided to walk and said "It is better to walk because I

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will have the privilege of an extra donkey." He completed his long journey on foot and nearly died of fatigue.

Abu Nawas asked the khatib (writer) who used to write in the shop of Abu Dawud, "Are you bigger or is your brother?" He replied "When Ramadan arrives we become equal". Once some of his Dhirhams were stolen, it was said to him, "They will be in your balance (meaning in the Day of Judgement). He replied, "It was from the balance they were stolen (referring to the balance of the shop)."

Abu Hussain explains, that a man went to visit a sick man and began to offer to his relations who were at the scene. They argued, "He's not dead yet". He replied, "Inshallah he will die."

Tahir Zohiree relates, that a man would remain silent in the gatherings of Abu Yousaf. "Do you not speak?" Imam Abu Yousaf asked. He replied in the affirmative and then asked, "When does one open the fast?" Imam Abu Yousaf replied, "As soon as the sun sets". The man asked "But what if the sun does not set till midnight, what should be done?" Imam Abu Yousaf smiled and commented "You were right to remain silent". (If it is midnight then obviously the sun will have already set).

Masood relates that Amar bin Salma sent his brother to purchase a coffin for his mother. Whilst purchasing the coffin, he said to the shopkeeper "You do not have to choose anything fancy, my dead mother, Allah have mercy on her always dressed in simple clothes."

An old man from Rai came to Imam Hatib and asked "Are you the one that relates that Nabi (SAW) has ordered the recitation of Sura Fatiha behind the Imam." Imam Hatib replied, "Yes there is a authentic hadith with reference to this matter". The old man argued "You are liar because Sura Fatiha was not revealed at the time of Nabi (SAW), it was revealed at the time of Umar." (Of course Sura Fatiha, which is part of the Quran was revealed during the era of Nabi SAW).

Once some water leaked into the house of a man called Kaba, on seeing the water he raised the alarm and screamed, "I've drowned! I've drowned!" He was asked "Why did you do this?" He replied "I wanted to know whether I've really drowned".

It is related from Ibn Josey that a man wanted to circumcise his child, so he told the barber "Please take it easy, he has not had this done before".

Usman bin Umar relates, that a man was in his final moments. His wife was instructed to go and sit next to him and talk to him. She replied, "If I sit next to him, I fear that the Angel of Death may recognize me."

Ibn Josey relates that Abdaan Asadi would come to Ibn Bishr and say "Do you want 500 hundred cash today or a thousand tomorrow?" He would reply "A thousand tomorrow". The next day he would ask "Do you want a thousand cash today or two

thousand tomorrow?" He would reply "Two thousand tomorrow". He kept on doing this until Ibn bin Bashr died.

Dharani relates that Talikhani was questioned "What do you say regarding a dead mouse if it walks over something. Will that thing become impure." He replied "No."

There was a very simple man in Wasit who lived near some stables. One day his wife said to him "I was washing the clothes on the roof, when some of our clothes flew and fell into the stables and the occupiers did not return them". He replied "When something flies from the stables you do the same". She asked "What can fly from the stables". He answered "You know the things that can fly like horses."

A fool went to visit a sick man and shouted the following words to his relatives "You did not inform us of the last ones death, please inform us of his death so we can offer his funeral prayer".

A man hired a boat to go to Abkari and paid the driver one Dhirham. After a while the driver mumbled "Only if there was another fool who could sail". He replied, "I can" and paid another Dhirham and sailed all the way.

An old woman went to pay her respects on the death of her relative. She found a sick man, thus she said, "I find it very difficult to walk, so I will pay my respects for this sick man in advance, Allah give you patience over his death".

Abu Fadhal Ahmed relates that a woman informed the Qadi that her husband has given her three talak. The Qadi asked "Do you have any witnesses?" She suggested that her neighbour was witness. Her neighbour appeared before the Qadi and when he was questioned regarding whether he had heard the talak, he answered "I went to the market and purchased meat, roti and saffron." The Qadi interrupted, I am not concerned with this, tell me did you hear the talak? He replied "I left the shopping home and then I went to purchase firewood, vinegar..." The Qadi, again interrupted "Leave out the irrelevant information". The neighbour said "It is best to reconstruct the incident from the beginning." so he continued. "When I returned home I left the shopping and then as I was strolling in the garden, I heard them arguing and three talak, but I do not know if the husband gave her three talak or whether she gave the husband three talak".

Along with a fool, I went to visit a friend whose eye was in pain. The fool asked the sick man "How is your eye?" My friend replied "It is in severe pain". The fool remarked, "There was a man whose eye was hurting like yours and after a few days he lost it."

Rabeeah bin Akeel came to Hazarat Moawiya and said, "Oh leader of the Muslims I would like to rebuild my house". He asked "Where is your house", Rabeeah replied "It is in Basarah on a few miles of land". Hazarat Moawiya asked "Is your house in Basarah or is Basarah in your house?"

A poet recited a few couplets in front of Mahdi (leader of the Muslims of his time) in which he mentioned the word "jawari zafaraat". When Mahdi asked regarding its meaning, he turned round to Mahdi and questioned "Do you not know its meaning oh leader of the Muslims?" He replied in the negative. The poet said "If you are the leader and you do not know, then how am I supposed to know?"

Once a father lost his child. Days past and there was no sign of him. All the relatives began to mourn thinking he has died. After a few days his father went to one of the rooms of the second floor of the house and found him sitting there. He asked, "You are alive! Oh son could you not hear our crying?" He replied "Yes but I have laid some eggs here and I was sitting on them waiting for the eggs to hatch, you know how much I love chickens".

A narrator says, I went to Kufa and found a boy standing next to a hole in a wall eating chapatti. He would break a morsel, place it in the hole and then eat it. I was watching this when all of sudden his father came and asked him what he was doing. He replied "The people of this house have just cooked curry and the smell is coming from this hole and I am eating it with chapatti". His father cracked him and said "It has been your habit since childhood that you do not eat chapatti without curry".

A fool said to his friend "I looked for you today over twenty times and this is the third".

A fool was sick, the doctor attended to enquire about his well being. He said to the doctor "I want to eat some ice". The doctor informed him that his condition would worsen if he did this. He defensively explained to the doctor "I am not going to eat it, I am only going to suck it and spit out the rest".

An old man was standing next to the door of a Masjid. The Muazzin, on observing his respectable image asked him to lead the prayer. The old man refused, and therefore the Muazzin himself led the prayer. After the prayer, the Muazzin said to the old man, "Baba if you had led the prayer we would have given you something". The old man replied, "I could not accept the role of the Imam if I am not in state of Wuzu".

A fool came to his mother and said, "I have one less from two keerat (meaning he had only one) take good care of them". After a few days he took it back from his mother and took it to the market place in order to have it weighed. When the shopkeeper explained it is only one keerat, he returned to confront his mother. His father intervened and asked what is the cause of this argument. He informed him "I gave my mother one less two keerat and she only gave me one back". The father who was extremely disappointed at the whole incident, remarked, "Do you not have any shame, you are fighting with your mother over a mere two keerat".

It was said to Khathir, "People say you are Dajjal". He replied "It is a coincidence, since you have been calling me Dajjal, my eye has become weak".

There was a horse race when one of the horses passed all the others, a spectator began to recite the takbeer. He was asked, "Was that yours?" He replied, "No its reign is mine".

A man purchased a kafan (shroud) for his dead wife. A little while later the woman bathing his wife's corpse, informed him that the kafan is too short. He replied, "Put a pair of socks on her. That will solve the problem".

A storyteller was illustrating how a neck would appear out of the fire on the Day of Judgement. On hearing this account, a man from the audience began to shake his head. When he was asked "Do you not believe in the power of Allah?" He replied "It is not that, I am the one that serves the water, how will I possibly manage to serve water to it?".

A fool had heard that the fast of Ashura is equivalent to the fasting of the whole year. He fasted for half a day believing this would suffice him for six months.

A fool entered the public baths and had mistaken the steam for dust. This annoyed him so much that he complained to the receptionist "How many times have I told you not to sweep up the dust when I come to the baths?"

Ismail relates, I asked a man "Where did you go?" He informed me he went to offer the funeral prayer of the son of a particular

person. I asked "Which one of his sons died?" He replied "He had two sons, the middle one died".

A fool was informed that his donkey was stolen, he overwhelmingly remarked "Thank God that I was not riding on it."

A man on observing his reflection in a well, raised the alarm and informed his mother, "There is a thief in the well". His mother had a look and confirmed, "You are right, and there is also a bad woman with him".

A fool was asked about his date of birth. He replied "First moon of the 15th of Ramadan, three days after the Eid. Now work it out yourself".

A fool wrote a letter to his father. He wrote "I am writing on a Jumma, it is a Wednesday evening when forty nights of the month Jamadul Awsat have passed. I would like to inform you that I became so sick that if this was somebody else, they would have died." The father responded "Your mother has three talak, and if you die I will never speak with you."

A fool left his house carrying his son on his shoulders and his son was wearing a red shirt. He forgot that he was carrying him and began to ask the passers by "Have you seen a boy wearing a red shirt?" One of them answered "He is sitting on your shoulders". He cracked his son and said, "How many times have

There was a horse race when one of the horses passed all the others, a spectator began to recite the takbeer. He was asked, "Was that yours?" He replied, "No its reign is mine".

A man purchased a kafan (shroud) for his dead wife. A little while later the woman bathing his wife's corpse, informed him that the kafan is too short. He replied, "Put a pair of socks on her. That will solve the problem".

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I told you that you should not wonder off when you are with me."

A fool on noticing the minaret of the central mosque wondered, who was the long man that made this minaret. Another fool replied, "Shut up you ignorant man, have you ever seen somebody as tall as a minaret in reality. This minaret was made on the floor and then raised".

Ibn Jawzi relates that "I saw a long bearded fool riding an unsteady donkey. The donkey angered the fool, so he cruelly started beating it. I told him to take it easy. He argued that if it can't walk, why did it become a donkey?"

A fool returned from some journey. A man asked him "When did you return." He replied "Tomorrow". The man said "If you had come today I would have asked you regarding somebody". Then he asked him "When are you going to return?" He replied "Yesterday". The man remarked, "Only if I had met you yesterday, I would have sent a letter with you".

A fool wrote a sympathy letter, consoling a man on the death of his daughter. He wrote "I was informed of your misfortune, but this in reality is not a calamity. It is reported in a Hadith, *whosoever daughter dies will be rewarded with something that I have forgotten*. He then continued, *whosoever two daughters die will be rewarded with, and that I am also forgetting twice*. Besides this, our Prophet's daughter Ayesha also died, so who was your daughter not to have died?"

Fadhal bin Abdullah was asked "Why do you not marry?" He replied "Because my father had given my brother and I a single slave girl." It was said that "Allah destroy you, you were sharing a slave girl?" He replied "What is so surprising about this, our neighbour does not have two."

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A fool heard about the pain and difficulties of death. He remarked "If the only thing in death was that you could not breath, then that would have been sufficient".

Jahiz states "I was in Himz when a goat passed and then a camel. A man observing this said to another "It seems as if this camel is the offspring of this goat". The second man answered "No, the camel is an orphan, it was reared by the goat." "

A fool consoling a man on his brother's death said "May Allah give you a big reward and have mercy on your brother and save him from the questions of the Gog and Magog". All those present noticed his mistake and began to laugh at him and asked "Is it the Gog and Magog that will question?" He replied "May Allah curse the devil, my tongue slipped. I wanted to say Harooth-Marooth".

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A friend of Hamid bin Abbas was sick. So he decided to send his son to visit him. He explained to his son "When you arrive, sit on a high place where he can see you and then ask him how he is feeling." After he answers, then say "You will get well Inshallah". Then ask "Which doctor is treating you?" In response to his answer say "He is an extremely good doctor." Finally, ask him "What medicine he is taking". In response to his answer, say "It is a good medicine".

When he went to visit the sick man, he climbed a minaret, and unfortunately fell on his chest. The child asked "What are you suffering from?" "Death" he replied. The child responded "You will get better Inshallah". The child then asked, "Who is treating you?" The man replied "The Angel of Death". He responded "What a good doctor he is". He finally asked "Which medicine are you taking?" The man replied, "Poison of death". The child responded "It is a good medicine".

A woman explaining to another woman said "While I went to visit Ahmed's grave, a nail got stuck in my foot." The woman that was listening asked "I hope you were not wearing new socks?" She replied "No". The other woman remarked "Then thank God".

A fool asked "Tell me who is more superior Abu Bakr or Umar?" A man replied "Umar". The fool then asked "How do you know?" He replied "Because when Abu Bakr died, Umar offered his funeral prayer and when Umar died, Abu Bakr did not offer his funeral prayer".

A man on the death of his child was instructed, to invite a particular person who could bathe his child. He replied "No way! He is my biggest enemy and I fear he may strangle my child to death".

Two men met on the way to Hajj. One asked the other, how many Hajj have you performed? He replied "One including this one."

A caravan carrying sixty men was robbed by two bandits. The victims were criticized "How did they manage to rob you when you were so large in number?" The victims replied "What could we do when one bandit surrounded us and the other bandit took our things?"

An old man was asked "Can you remember that once people performed Hajj in Ramadan." He replied "Yes! It has happened on two or three occasions".

A man told his slave to go see whether the sky is clear or cloudy. He went and returned after a short while, exclaiming, the rain did not give me a chance to see whether it is cloudy or not.

In a case brought to the Qadi a witness testified against somebody. The defendant argued "Are you going to accept the testimony of such a man who possesses twenty thousands Dirhams and has still not performed his Hajj?" The witness responded, "Of course I have performed Hajj". The defendant

requested the Qadi, to ask him about the well of Zam Zam. The witness responded, "I performed Hajj before the well of Zam Zam ever existed".

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requested the Qadi, to ask him about the well of Zam Zam. The witness responded, "I performed Hajj before the well of Zam Zam ever existed".

Abu Hasan relates that a man said to Hija, "I heard a loud noise coming from your house? He replied, it was the sound of my falling shirt". The man exclaimed "The sound of your falling shirt was so loud." He replied, "When I was inside the shirt (i.e. wearing the shirt) would I have not fallen with it."